

This listing of the claims replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-23.

24. (Original) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, wherein the polymer is prepared by polymerization of a composition consisting essentially of a hydrophilic monomer and an acrylic acid monomer esterified with a hydrophilic side chain.

25. (Original) The polymer of claim 24, wherein the hydrophilic monomer is selected from N-vinyl amides, N-vinyl lactams, vinyl alcohols, vinyl amines, acrylic acids, methacrylic acids, hydroxyalkyl acrylates, hydroxyalkyl methacrylate, vinyl ethers, alkyl acrylates, alkyl methacrylates, acrylamides, N-alkylacrylamides, N,N-dialkylacrylamides, N-hydroxyalkylacrylamides, maleic acids, esters of maleic acids, maleic acid-co-methylvinyl ethers, esters of maleic acid-co-methylvinyl ethers, sulfoalkylacrylates, sulfoalkylmethacrylates; hydroxystyrene, allyl alcohols, crotonic acid, and itaconic acid.

26. (Withdrawn **IN ERROR**) The polymer of claim 25, wherein the hydrophilic monomer is an N-vinyl lactam.

27. (Withdrawn **IN ERROR**) The polymer of claim 24, wherein the acrylic acid monomer is esterified with a poly(alkylene oxide) chain containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units.

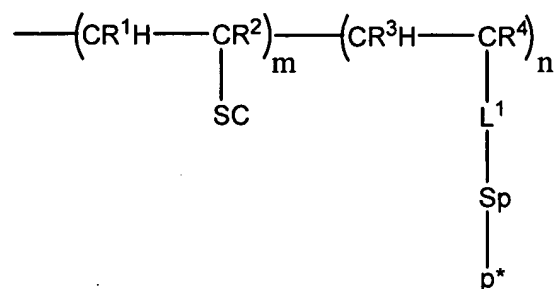
28. (Withdrawn **IN ERROR**) The polymer of claim 27, wherein the acrylic acid monomer is selected from polyethylene glycol monoacrylate and polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate.

29. (Withdrawn **IN ERROR**) A liquid film-forming composition consisting essentially of a water-insoluble film-forming polymer and the polymer of claim 24.

30. (Original) The composition of claim 29, wherein the water-insoluble film-forming polymer is selected from acrylate-based polymers and copolymers, polyvinylacetate, ethylene-vinylacetate copolymers, alkyl cellulose, nitrocellulose, and polysilicones.

Cancel claims 31-37.

38. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having the formula:



where:

m is an integer in the range of 01 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a poly(alkylene oxide) side chain containing about 4-20 alkylene oxide units
~~hydrophilic side chain;~~

L¹ is selected from -(CO)-O-, -O-(CO)-, -O-(CO)-O-, -(CO)-NH-, -NH-(CO)-, -O-(CO)-NH-, -NH-(CO)-O-, -S-S-, -S-(CO)-, and -(CO)-S-;

Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and

P* is a polar moiety.

39. (Withdrawn **IN ERROR** - currently amended) The polymer of claim 38, where:

R¹, R², and R³ are hydrogen;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, and hydroxymethyl;

~~SC is a poly(alkylene oxide) side chain containing about 4-20 alkylene oxide units;~~

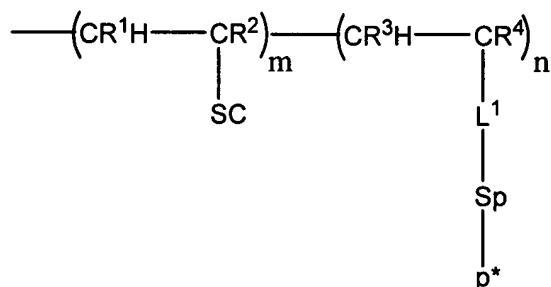
L^1 is $-(CO)-O-$; and

P^* is a hydroxyl group.

40. (Withdrawn **IN ERROR**) The polymer of claim 38, where m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000, and the polymer is prepared by polymerization of a composition consisting essentially of a hydrophilic monomer and an acrylic acid monomer esterified with a hydrophilic side chain.

Cancel claims 41-90.

91. (New) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having the formula:



where:

m is an integer in the range of 0 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a hydrophilic side chain;

L^1 is selected from $-O-(CO)-$, $-O-(CO)-O-$, $-(CO)-NH-$, $-O-(CO)-NH-$, $-NH-(CO)-O-$, $-S-S-$, $-S-(CO)-$, and $-(CO)-S-$;

Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and

P^* is a polar moiety.